Rabbi Morris Kosman
20 West Second St.,
Frederick, Md. 21701

11/22/91

Dear Rabbi Kosman,

I appreciate your finding time with your busy schedule for your informative letter of the 12th. I know the problem of not being able to lead an orderly schedule because in addition to all the many interruptions I have from those inquiring about my work I am limited in what I am able to do as the result of complications following a number of successful operations. We too often can't do what we'd like to do.

I have no doubt at all about the sincerity of those in the congregation who do not believe as I do about the local papers, Roy Meachum and anti-Semitism and Israel-bashing in general. Most, however, are probably younger than I hence can't remember what I do, and I doubt that many, if any, duplicate some of my experiences. Rather than go into detail on the latter I tell you that when Rabbi Paul Richman headed the Washington office of the ADL he used to refer to me as a "one-man ADL." Paul was a good friend, I was able to help him and I did a fair amount of exposing of native Nazis and other anti-Semites.

History tells us that it is dangerous for Jews to be silent when they are under attack. It also tells us, I believe, that only too often this was foreign to what I at least like to think was the traditional early history Jewish response. There also is, I think, what primciple as well as pride and self-respect requires, and I fear that those who have no immediate worries, without realizing what they are doing, cop out with a fiction, that opposing what the papers and Roy are doing will help sell papers. There are no other local papers and if a few more were to be sold, which is doubtful, it would be of no significance.

But especially because these rags are the basic source of information in the area it is important to make an effort to deter if not prevent the hatred incited as a matter of both policy and belief. Delaplaine and Meachum are making more anti-Semites and Israel-haters all the time.

I draw on good and depenable sources in telling you that Betty Delaplaine wanted George to fire Meachum long ago. He wouldn't. However, as you may not recall, once I got after him his columns were cut in half. Moreover, for a while he was quiet on his hate-inciting and indulging. This is to say that doing something is not impossible if an effort is made. With trying nothing good happens.

Not intending to appear to be what I'm not, a psychologist, I also think that we lose the respect of the areas non-Jews when we are silent, referring to those who know the truth, and persuade those who are not informed that the papers and Ray are telling the ugly truth when in fact they lie and are propagandists.

I am well aware that all the papers get does not appear. Much if not most of what I've written was not used. This was typical when Crum edited that, rather those pages. He is

not editing them as of my last knowledge. Mike Powell is. The only time I did not respond immediately is when Rita Gordon asked me not to. When I saw that what she expected was not going to happen I began responding again.

It is important to be comfortable in what we do. You say you are not comfortable tangling with Roy in public. Then don't. It would, I believe, be much more important in any event if you would try to be comfortable, by which I mean find out if you can be, in an entirely different role.

It has been dismaying to me not to see Christian clergymen opposing this evil, this overt incitation to hatred. I think they can be and should be spoken to and that those (who if qualified at all ought not be many!) who do not know the truth be told the truth.

There are many things that can be done, not necessarily in public, and many people who are in a position to do it. Those to whom in the past I've spoken are Jews and with one exception none did a thing. One is not easy. That is to make George uncomfortable, which he has not been. If the ADL had been active locally this would have been done long ago. It still should be done. If anyone makes the effort I have a fairly complete file.

Which reminds me: a compilation and analysis could be done by a college student who does not work during the summer. We should make the case and it could be very embarrassing to George and to the papers, particularly if they had any reason to believe that the study might get some public attention.

Which it can get through the ADL. And public meetings and discussions.

With your statement repeated at the bottom of page 1, that it "may be a legitimate point of view" that in opposing this we attract attention to it, do their work for them, I disagree. This, I think, is the problem of being complaisant when there is no immediate danger. Doing nothing merely lets the evil grow. I fear it may be unseen but there for the young people in school, when fellow students either read his rot or hear it discussed as though it is the truth at home.

Speaking of the young, I think their elders are not setting them the example they need to be able to later face the stresses of adulthood. They ought not grow up timid or ashamed or self-intimidated.

The Jew-hating Jew has not responded. I have forgotten his name. But I was curious and checked the phone book. At the same address the person I suppose is his wife is connected with some kind of church.

There is no telling when Meachum will sound off again. I think the political gangup on Israel, headed by Bush and his radically altered policy, may inspire and cover him. If he is not responded to, then those who read the papers will be misled and misinformed. It will be a mistake, I think, to continue to assume that politically the future will be as the past was. Public opinion can become quite important for Israel.

Thanks for finding the time. With best wishes to all, Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold